

Preliminary

Meeting Agenda: [First Senate Meeting Proposed Agenda.pdf](#)

Roll Call

[F25.1 SGA Senate Meeting - Roll Call](#)

Quorum met

6:32 – Advisor Update

Mr. Jarrett Pratt, Center for Campus Engagement

- Received confirmation from the CSU Rec Center to commandeer the CSU Rec Center from 9:00 PM to Midnight on Monday, November 17th
- CCE/CAB/SGA will be able to put on programming for students on the first floor of the Rec Center (gaming, pool, table tennis, etc)
- **Budgets have been processed. Student org treasurers will receive emails to this effect starting November 1st.**

6:35 – Oath of Office

6:35 - Senators sworn in (Speaker Whitman):

1. Afhan Taha
2. Gisela Cortez
3. Kenleigh Black
4. Tyler Hatch
5. Urwah Yasser
6. Kayla Moore
7. Johnny Mattes
8. Luis Torres
9. Antonio Ghantous
10. Jack Whitman

6:37 - Exec Board sworn in (Pres Syed):

1. Laurel Paul

6:40 – Exec Board Updates

Pres Alysha Syed

- No formal updates
- Expecting to publish a formal schedule going forward, complete E-Board and Senate photos
- Pres. Syed will be sitting in on Faculty Senate tomorrow and will share additional information at the next SGA meeting

6:41 – Senator Updates

Speaker Whitman

- Convened the Senate
- Expect to hear more detailed updates in future meetings

6:42 – Resolution SR-1-2025: A Resolution for Enhanced Communication and Transparency

Authored/Read by Speaker Whitman

[F25.1.1 A Resolution for Enhanced Communication and Transparency.pdf](#)

6:45 – Opened to the floor for discussion

- No points

6:45 – Opened for public comment

- **Q:** Who is “radical transparency” being demanded from?
 - **A:** The full scope of University Operations, in lockstep with the CSU Office of Compliance
 - With respect to SGA, specifically enhanced recordkeeping, overhauled and persistent communications (incl. newsletters, updates, etc)

6:47 – Moved to Enter Voting Procedure (Sen. Hatch)

6:47 – Motion Passes (to enter voting procedure)

6:48 – Entered Voting by Roll Call

Senator	Vote
Afhan Taha	Y
Gisela Cortez	Y
Kenleigh Black	Y
Tyler Hatch	Y
Urwah Yasser	Y
Kayla Moore	Y
Johnny Mattes	Y
Luis Torres	Y
Antonio Ghanous	Y
Jack Whitman	Y

6:48 – Resolution Passes

6:49 – Resolution SR-2-2025: A Resolution to Authorize Student Organization Funding

Authored/Read by Speaker Whitman

[SR-2-2025 A Resolution to Authorize Student Organization Funding.pdf](#)

6:50 – Senate Comment

6:51 – Guest Comment

- **Q:** A lot of students are concerned about funding/outstanding expenses from the Spring. If handling is on a case-by-case basis, who will evaluate cases?
 - **A:** SGA is limited to respond to outstanding expenses from the past Spring. The “case by case” evaluation being referred to applies to the **Fall 2025** Semester
- **Q:** If expenses from the past Spring are not wholly documented (paid from an agency account), will SGA be able to provide assistance with special cases?
 - **A:** No, but speak with Treasurer Saxena to see what can be done
- **Q:** Timeline for the creation of this resolution?
 - **A:** About a week (woohoo!!!)
 - SGA has a backlog of outstanding tasks, which is why many things are beign done by Speaker Whitman and on an unusually tight timeframe

- **Q:** Can an explanation be offered in the delays for getting SGA operational?
 - **A:** A special election had to be conducted due to election irregularities in the Spring. Time was needed to train incoming members and prepare for operations.

6:54 – Moved to Enter Voting Procedures (1: Sen. Taha 2: Sen. Hatch)

6:54 – Motion Passes (to enter voting procedure)

6:54 – Voting by Roll Call

Senator	Vote
Afhan Taha	Y
Gisela Cortez	Y
Kentleigh Black	Y
Tyler Hatch	Y
Urwah Yasser	Y
Kayla Moore	Y
Johnny Mattes	Y
Luis Torres	Y
Antonio Ghanous	Y
Jack Whitman	Y

6:55 - Resolution SR-2-2025 Passes

6:56 – Resolution SR-3-2025: A Resolution Supporting Student Radio

Authored/Read by Speaker Whitman

[SR-3-2025 A Resolution Supporting Student Radio.pdf](#)

6:58 – Opened to SGA Comment

- **Q:** How important is it to inform the student body of university actions?
 - **A:** The university usually puts out a press release in accordance with major changes. Because CSU is a fairly large city fixture, news outlets report on this, which students then read. CSU did not do this.

6:59 – Opened to Public Comment

- Q: How does this resolution protect community free speech and student-driven radio in Cleveland? How does this resolution interact with President Bloomberg's decision to double down and defend the administration's actions?
 - A1: While SGA cannot speak to or legislate with respect to the wider Cleveland community, we believe that student radio should be available to the wider community
 - A2: SGA has the power to make suggestions and offer recommendations for next steps. By nature of SGA Resolutions being student-approved in a formal/official capacity, they carry more weight and are more likely to invite dialogue with the administration. **However**, SGA does not have the mandate to enforce a resolution upon the Administration – though it will continue to advocate for the student body.
 - A3: Pres. Syed expects to speak with President Bloomberg at a meeting tomorrow, where she will share points from the resolution
- Q: Does the resolution discuss students being in the room when decisions are made which impact the student body
 - A: Right now, we're just asking that students are notified when decisions are made that impact them. These are baby steps towards change
- Q: Would you be willing to amend the resolution to enshrine student notification in light of CSU's track record of excluding student voices?
 - A: We cannot amend right now, but are interested in exploring this idea, especially in a future meeting as a followup resolution
- Q: Define "adequate timing" as discussed in the resolution
 - A: "Adequate notice" is defined as **48 hours in advance of a decision being made which impacts students**

Motion To: Amend the floor measure to deliver SR-3-2025 to the President's Office?

- Moved and Seconded
- All in favor, this motion passes

The resolution on the floor (SR-3-2025) is amended to direct its delivery to the President's Office?

7:08 - Motion to Enter Voting Procedures

7:08 – Entered Voting by Roll Call

Senator	Vote
Afhan Taha	Y
Gisela Cortez	Y
Kenleigh Black	Y
Tyler Hatch	Y
Urwah Yasser	Y
Kayla Moore	Y
Johnny Mattes	Y
Luis Torres	Y
Antonio Ghanous	Y
Jack Whitman	Y

7:09 – Floor Opened to Student Concerns

- **Q1:** Document on the dissolution of GFAC on the Special Election Ballot. This document has not been publicly accessible to students, and was nowhere to be seen. Voting was voluntary/optional. How was this document added to the ballot, and when will it be added to the official website/made available to students?
 - **A:** This document was added by the decision of the Board of Election. Speaker Whitman agrees that this was not properly handled. Nobody was aware this document would be added to the ballot, and the wording on the poll was vague. Speaker Whitman is concerned for transparency, and seeks for SGA to address this through future action

Let the record reflect that the Secretary's laptop chose this moment to cease existing. All future questions were recorded on paper, and added to this document after it was repaired on 11/7/2025.

- **Q2:** Can SGA control how items are added to future ballots? Questioner raised concerns about misleading language and a lack of context.
 - **A:** Speaker Whitman echoed concerns. Mr. Jarrett Pratt (CCE) declined to comment.
- **Q3:** Questioner (identified themselves as President of CSU Campus Democrats and fmr. SGA Speaker) discussed the UPass decision made by the University over the summer recess. Questioner shared that they mobilized 2,500 community members

and students to push back against the decision. Received information from President Bloomberg's Chief of Staff that:

- UPass is currently on an opt-in system
- An advisory board is being created, and interested students should contact themselves or Speaker Whitman
- Questioner called on SGA to advocate for greater student involvement during campus decisions
- **Speaker Whitman:** Asked questioner to observe proper protocol when during audience comment
- **Pres. Syed:** Ongoing meetings with President Bloomberg to form a student committee to address similar issues. Optimistic on student-driven collaboration
- **Q4:** Before student org communications were restricted between staff/students, questioner (a CAB representative) was told a large purchase of furniture in the Student Center (approx. value \$80k) was upcoming. Is SGA aware of this? How is CSU paying for this?
 - Speaker Whitman: Because committees have not been formed, SGA has not yet been able to send representatives to the university's Hospitality Committee. Senators will be able to liaise with CSU representatives and inquire as nonvoting Hospitality committee members once SGA Senate committees form.
 - **Q4.1:** Why were communications between students and staff restricted in the first place? Questioner noted that their team (CAB) feels sidelined and is suffering as a result of this change.
 - **Mr. Pratt (CCE):** CCE ordered this change. Raised approx. \$39k in unresolved, student-signed contracts as the principal driver.
 - Attempting to enforce an effective chain of command. Streamlining like this is necessary to avoid back-channel spending
 - Despite appearances, the Office of Compliance is driving this change. Necessary to abide by state law and follow good accounting practices.
 - Not trying to stifle voices or prevent collaboration – just controlling the channels for that activity.
 - As an example of CCE-student collaboration – discussed how students were involved when SGA/CCE foundational docs were written

- **Dissent:** Another audience member stated that students were told to sign contracts. Stated that this language from CCE makes them feel alienated and betrayed.
 - **Dissent:** CAB is being kept from liaising with their advisor, and feels that they are losing their autonomy. Feels like an unspoken ban from hosting events.
 - **Speaker Whitman:**
 - **ALL** of CSU is impacted by these Compliance initiatives – this is not a targeted campaign.
- **Q5:** Does the streamlining discussed in Q4.1 by Mr. Pratt impact operational (non-financial) collaboration with CSU staff?
 - **Mr. Pratt:** Student orgs **can** collaborate with CSU staff so long as **they are not “conducting business”**.
 - The record defines “conducting business as”:
 - Anything that involves a **fiscal interaction** (spending money, raising money, budgeting, etc.) with or on behalf of Cleveland State University.
 - **Mr. Pratt:** Only student org Presidents may conduct business with CSU staff.
 - **Mr. Pratt:** CCE drop-in hours to address these questions are held on Saturdays (no time shared).
- **Q6:** Questioner stated that the university’s mode of operation is frustrating and isolating. Shared concerns that channels for feedback and collaboration are being intentionally closed off.
- **Q7:** Questioner stated that Lift Up Vikes is extending food pantry hours to accommodate for lapses in SNAP benefit funding. Questioner requests that SGA notify students about this change.
 - **Speaker Whitman:** SGA can support this initiative and share this with students

7:44 PM – Motion to Adjourn

7:44 PM – Adjourned